

Minutes, Public Works Committee, Oct. 9, 2014

Present: Christine Gray-Mullen, Chair; Richard Fein, Charlie Moran, Don Wise, Bill Mullin. Guilford Mooring, Superintendent. Connie Kruger, Select Board liaison. Guests: Hilda Greenbaum, Louis Greenbaum, Ellen Pile, Chris Pile, Sean Burke, Rita Burke.

Minutes of the previous meeting, 7/10/2014, accepted 5-0-0.

Next meetings scheduled Nov. 6, Dec. 4.

Project Updates

- * Sidewalk on South East St. from Colonial Village to Rt.9 has been started, financed by a Community Development Block Grant.
- * Paving project on Farview Way area is being finished up. The residents have noted that missing signs should be replaced. These include No Parking and a possible Stop sign at N. Pleasant.
- * Pine St. paving project is moving along. Drainage work is being done now with first coat of asphalt starting next week-- to be finished in the next two weeks. (A guest noted the need for an additional 25 mph sign at the curve onto Bridge St.)
- * Mill River bridge is under design. The DPW will need to consult the Conservation Commission because of the need to put sidewalks on conservation land. Completion is scheduled in 2017.
- * The Town has applied for a Mass Works grant to cover putting the utilities underground in the area of Triangle/E. Pleasant intersection. Design of the roundabout there is underway and the Town will need to find financing to build it.
- * Work is proceeding on the Amherst Woods sewer project.

New Business

- * North Amherst intersection : Staff is working on the design for rebuilding the North Amherst intersection. This project will take place in two phases, with Phase I considering only the traffic lights and added left turn lanes for Meadow, N. Pleasant, Pine. Plans should be available in November or December. Phase II, to be considered later, will include Sunderland Rd and Rte. 63. This phase will involve the purchase of land. Hilda Greenbaum and others discussed the need to coordinate this work with improvements in the Jones Library North Amherst Branch of the Library within the planning phases.
- * Henry St. Traffic Calming: Ellen and Chris Pile, Sean and Rita Burke spoke of the need to control high traffic speed on the section of Henry St. from Market Hill Rd. to Pine St. They suggested installing three-way stop signs at that intersection. Mr. Mooring noted that the intersection does not technically qualify for such an arrangement although the Select Board has allowed such previously without the necessary qualifications being satisfied.

Old Business

- * Future Pavement Prioritizing: The analysis from the pavement assessment machine will be available in December. However, the neighborhood roads that were zero before, and

not already repaved, are still zero so that our previous list (Jan. 2013) is still mostly valid. This year the Commonwealth provided an extra \$100K (Winter Road Repair Project) to the usual \$800K Chap. 90 money so a considerable amount of shim coating was done, a repair that should last 2 to 4 years. Of the Chap. 90 funds next year the plan is to use \$50K for crack sealing and \$150 for more shim coats. The new assessment will show more bad roads, with North East and E. Pleasant needing milling and paving soon. The Committee should look to review the neighborhood road priority list at the November meeting.

* Sidewalk Priority list: Our previous sidewalk priority list (Jan. 2013) included the S. East St. walk that is now being completed under a CDBG, and sidewalks on E. Pleasant from Village Park to Eastman Lane, with lower priority given to the section from Eastman Lane to Pine St. Despite the increased population from the new low-cost housing on Olympia Dr, Mr. Mooring felt that the E. Pleasant sidewalk would not likely qualify for a CDBG. There is however a method of qualifying portions of "blocks" by dividing them into "subblocks," which might individually qualify.

* Wildwood/ Strong St. Update: Residents are again complaining about the Strong St. sidewalk patch that is broken badly. The problem is that using funds to fix this would take them away from other dire needs. The overhanging hedges were cut last year despite the fact the DPW sent no letter requesting this action of homeowners as the Committee suggested. The letter is however still a possibility. The area was declared a School Zone as suggested, with a sign placed 400 ft from the school. A flashing yellow light will be installed after two other lights on the list are finished (one at Triangle and Main and the other at the North Amherst intersection). Mr. Mooring noted that the vast majority of sidewalk complaints come from residents in the downtown area. The Strong St. sidewalk could be put on the priority list.

*University Dr./ Amity St. intersection: A one-lane roundabout does not work here since the traffic is much too intense. In the existing scheme the intersection needs left-turn lanes. The plans for this are completed.

* DPW Building Study: The study is underway with a \$70K budget.

Respectfully submitted,
William Mullin, Sec'y *pro tem*.